United Nations S/2007/600

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 October 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 9 October 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 August 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

07-53522 (E) 111007

Annex

Letter dated 5 October 2007 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Secretary-General

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach a report on the operations of the Kosovo Force covering the period from 1 to 31 August 2007. I would appreciate your making this report available to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 August 2007.

2. As at 31 August 2007, the total number of troops in theatre was 15,078. This includes 2,456 troops from non-NATO countries.

Political situation

3. The extended period of negotiations on Kosovo's future status was officially launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in a public statement on 1 August 2007. The European Union, United States and Russian Federation Troika paid its first visit to Belgrade and Pristina on 10 and 11 August 2007. A second round of talks between the parties was held in Vienna on 30 August 2007. There was no major breakthrough in the negotiations so far as both Belgrade and Pristina retain their fundamental well-known positions.

4. Lieutenant General Kather handed over the command of the KFOR forces to Lieutenant General Bout de Marnhac during a ceremony at KFOR headquarters on 31 August 2007.

Security situation

5. Despite ongoing diplomatic uncertainty surrounding the future status process, the month of August was relatively calm. Reported incidents include the killing of one Kosovo Police Service officer for criminal reasons; a break-in and minor damage at a Serbian church in Multinational Task Force Centre, and the escape from Dubrava prison of seven prisoners suspected of possible terrorist activities. There were rumours of an increased number of Kosovo Serbs buying houses from Kosovo Albanians north of the River Ibar (Little Bosnia and Three Towers) at high prices.

6. During August 2007 no incidents against KFOR were recorded. The threat level against KFOR is low.

7. A total of 416 incidents related to drugs (23), counterfeit currency (29), smuggling (13), miscellaneous criminal incidents (99), illegal weapons possession (118), weapons and ammunitions seizure (68) and unexploded ordnance (66) were reported during this period. The total number of incidents is significantly higher than in July (337), the greatest increase being in illegal weapons possession and weapons seizure.

KFOR operations

8. The operational tempo remained steady. KFOR continues to help maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement through the conduct of framework operations and intelligence-driven operations. KFOR is fully prepared to react to potential disturbances Kosovo-wide.

Compliance

9. During the month of August, the KFOR Legal Adviser issued three certificates for three Kosovo Protection Corps members reported as absent without permission.

The Deputy Commander of the Kosovo Protection Corps issued one suspension order. The above-mentioned cases will be decided at the next Disciplinary Board meeting, scheduled for 18 September 2007.

Kosovo Protection Corps

10. There was no recruitment campaign for the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) in August 2007.

11. The current active personnel establishment is 2,914. There are 196 (6.83 per cent) active ethnic minority members (172 male, 24 female). The total number of ethnic minorities remains the same as last month. The percentage of minorities within KPC is still short of the goal set by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and there are 113 open slots left in the active personnel establishment list. The reserve list includes 2,000 positions, of which 1,892 are filled (including 48 ethnic minority members, which equates 2.45 per cent).

12. KPC is still waiting for a donor country to increase the number of English language classes for the rest of 2007. The multinational task forces continue lessons on module-based training in accordance with agreed guidance. The new training order was released on 4 August 2007 and the new training programme will start on 1 September 2007. The third generation of university studies started on 27 August 2007 with 17 members. Seven KPC-managed projects were conducted throughout Kosovo.

13. During the month of August, 21 ceremonies involving 484 KPC members were held. There were no incidents reported.

Conclusion

14. The situation remains relatively calm but the political uncertainty related to the future status talks may raise tensions in the short term. KFOR remains fully prepared to deal with any unrest in Kosovo and would respond forcefully to any attempt to disrupt the political process, regardless of where it comes from. Tensions in Kosovo could potentially have repercussions in neighbouring areas, particularly in the northern part of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[1] and in the Presevo Valley.

[1] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.